

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P 232150Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2010

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT:POLITICAL MANEUVERING CONTINUES

1. SUMMARY. NAMING OF NEW CABINET MINISTERS JULY 21 DID LITTLE TO STILL GOVERNMENT CRITICS WHO SEE LATEST CHANGES IN CABINET AS FURTHER ATTEMPT TO KEEP LOPEZ REGA SUPPORTERS IN KEY POSITIONS. LEVEL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY REMAINS HIGH WITH POLITICAL, LABOR AND MILITARY CONTINUING TO EXACT STRONG PRESSURE FOR FURTHER FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN PERSONNEL. FONMIN VIGNES, SEEN BY MANY AS ARCHITECT OF LATEST CABINET SHUFFLE, COMING UNDER INCREASING PUBLIC ATTACK. STATE OF MRS. PERON'S HEALTH AND PROBABLE TENURE IN OFFICE NOW BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. END

2. NAMING OF NEW CABINET MINISTERS DID LITTLE TO STILL CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AND EFFORTS TO PURGE LOPEZ REGA'S SUPPORTERS ARE ACTIVELY CONTINUING. WHILE IT APPARS A BIT OVERDRAWN TO CHARACTERIZE NEW CABINET MINISTERS AS LOPEZ-REGISTAS, FACT THAT THESE APPOINTEES WERE NOT CLEARED WITH GOVERNMENT'S OPPONENTS AND THE INDIVIDUALS APPEAR TO BE FIGURES HAVE LED TO CHARGES THAT LATEST CHANGES ARE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN LOPEZ REGA'S INFLUENCE OVER GOA.

3. THE JUSTICIALIST PARTY BLOC IN THE CHAMBER OF  
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DEPUTIES HAS SCHEDULED MEETING FOR 2:00 PM TODAY WITH

MAJOR SUBJECT ON AGENDA TENURE OF CHAMBER PRESIDENT LASTIRI AND JUSTICIALIST BLOC LEADER PEDRINI. EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO OUST BOTH IN NEAR FUTURE WITH VOTE IN CONGRESS POSSIBLE TODAY OR 24TH. A SOURCE CLOSE TO CASILDO HERRERAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT DISAGREEMENT OVER LASTIRI'S FUTURE CREATED FRICTION BETWEEN HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL. ACCORDING TO SOURCE HERRERAS WANTS LASTIRI OUSTED IMMEDIATELY WHILE MIGUEL APPARENTLY TEMPORIZING. NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME WHETHER DISAGREEMENT IS OVER TACTICS OR FORESHADOWS MORE BASIC DIFFERENCES.

4. BOTH PRESS AND POLITICAL SOURCES HOSTILE TO GOVERNMENT AGREE THAT FONMIN VIGNES HAD LARGE HAND IN LATEST CABINET RESHUFFLE. SINCE HIS ASSUMPTION OF PRIVATE SECRETARY ROLE DURING LOPEZ REGA'S RECENT TRIP TO BRAZIL, VIGNES HAS COME UNDER GROWING ATTACK AS BEING KEY LOPEZ-REGISTA IN NEW GOVERNMENT SETUP. HE HAS NOW BECOME THE OBJECT OF EVER MORE HOSTILE POLITICAL AND PRESS COMMENTARY. JUSTICIALIST DEPUTY PORTO WHO FIRST LEVELED CHARGES AGAINST LOPEZ REGA HAS NOT SELECTED VIGNES AS TARGET, AND HAS CALLED FOR PUBLIC INVESTIGATION ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION, TAX EVASION AND MALFEASANCE IN OFFICE. GOVERNOR MENEM OF LA RIOJA PROVINCE, GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE FIRMLY WITHIN THE ORTHODOX PERONIST WING, HAS ALSO PUBLICALLY CRITICIZED VIGNES AND QUESTIONED HIS CONTINUANCE IN THE CABINET.

5. THE STATE OF MRS. PERON'S HEALTH AND LENGTH OF HER TENURE IN OFFICE HAS NOW BECOME TOPIC NUMBER ONE IN ALL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. REVOLUTIONARY CHRISTIAN DEPUTY DIP EMERGED FROM A MEETING JULY 22 WITH INTERIOR MIN BENITEZ AND CLAIMED BENITEZ HAD TOLD HIM THAT STATE OF MRS. PERON'S HEALTH MIGHT REQUIRE HER TO TAKE LEAVE OF ABSENCE. BENITEZ LATER ISSUED DENIAL OF DEPUTY DIP' STATEMENT, BUT POLITICAL SOURCES, INCLUDING SOME CLOSE TO MILITARY, SAY HER HEALTH INDEED BECOMING A MATTER OF CONCERN.

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## Message Attributes

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